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Imagery analysis report

**47th Army, Lanzhou
Military Region, China**

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25X1**47TH ARMY, LANZHOU MILITARY REGION, CHINA** [REDACTED]

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ABSTRACT

1. [REDACTED] This report discusses the 47th Army in Lanzhou Military Region (MR), China. It describes the physical and functional changes to the facilities observed on imagery acquired from January 1979 through [REDACTED]. It also presents an analysis of the installations considered to be organic to the 47th Army. The locations and functions of these units were derived primarily from satellite imagery, Interim National Basic Reference Graphics (NBRGs) on the 47th Army, published in 1977 by CIA/OIA, were used as a point of reference for analyzing functional associations of the facilities. [REDACTED]

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2. [REDACTED] Major renovation and reconstruction of facilities of the 47th Army has occurred since 1976. Prior to 1977, nearly all the elements of this army were housed in underground facilities. Aboveground facilities have since been constructed in all the installations subordinate to the 139th Infantry Division and in most of the installations of the 141st Infantry Division, as well as in several of the army-level support units. No renovation has yet been observed in the installations of the 140th Infantry Division. In addition to facility improvements, equipment upgradings have been observed in several units in the army; these upgradings are discussed individually in the text of the report.

3. (U) This report contains two location maps, one organizational chart, 11 annotated photographs, and one table.

INTRODUCTION

4. [REDACTED] The 47th Army^{1*} is one of three main force armies in Lanzhou Military Region, north central China (Figure 1). The 10th Column, predecessor of the 47th Army, was formed in 1947 in the area now known as Shenyang MR. In 1948, the 10th Column was redesignated as the 47th Army. From 1949 through early 1951, the Army was active in the Hubei, Sichuan, and Hunan areas. The 47th Army entered North Korea in 1951 and remained in Korea until 1954. It then moved to the Hunan-Guangxi border area in southern China. The period from 1967 to 1970 was marked by both inter- and intraregional movement of this army. Between February and May 1970, the 47th Army left the Hunan area and moved to the Xian area in Lanzhou MR, where it replaced the 21st Army. The 47th Army remains in the Xian area.²

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5. [REDACTED] The 47th Army is housed in 23 installations within a 5,400-square-nautical mile (nm) area along the Wei He Valley, northeast of the industrial center of Xian. This broad river valley extends from west to east and is enclosed by rugged mountains to the north and south. Rail lines and major roads converge in this area, providing good access to western areas of Lanzhou and to Beijing, Wuhan, and Jinan MRs. A rail line under construction along the Luo He (river) will eventually provide access to the northern parts of eastern Lanzhou MR. Two major airfields in the Wei He Valley, Xian/Yanliang Airfield [REDACTED] and Xian/Lintong Airfield [REDACTED] augment mobilization potential.

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6. [REDACTED] Like most armies in China, the 47th Army consists of an army headquarters, army-level support units, and three infantry divisions. The army headquarters and all but one of its support units are housed at five installations in the Lintong area. The tank regiment subordinate to the army is housed in the vicinity of Chengcheng, approximately 55 nm northeast of Lintong. The five installations of the 139th Infantry Division extend along a rail line, following the southern edge of the valley from Weinan to Tongguan. The 140th Infantry Division is housed in six installations along the rail line extending north from Yanliang to Tongchuan. Similarly, the five installations which house the units of the 141st Infantry Division have good access to a rail line. These facilities, on the northern side of the Wei He Valley, extend from 10 nm west of Pucheng eastward to Heyang (Figure 2).

7. [REDACTED] The imagery acquired during the reporting period was sufficient to identify changes at the facilities but was not always adequate for accurately assessing the complete table of equipment (TOE) assigned to the army or for determining patterns of troop activity.

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BASIC DESCRIPTION**47th Army Headquarters and Army-Level Support Units**

8. [REDACTED] The 47th Army Headquarters and its subordinate units consist of a headquarters facility, an engineering/ponton battalion, an antiaircraft artillery (AAA) regiment, an artillery regiment, a probable motor transport unit, and a tank regiment (Chart 1 and Table 1).

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9. [REDACTED] Lintong Army Headquarters and Barracks AL-1 probably houses the army headquarters. Sufficient facilities exist at this installation to accommodate a headquarters company, a reconnaissance

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*For the purposes of this report, all army unit designators and subordinations were acquired from referenced documents 1 and/or 2.

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battalion, an engineer battalion, a signal battalion, a chemical-warfare battalion, and a guard company. The engineer battalion may be housed in area E, where facilities similar to those of known engineer battalions have been constructed since 1976. The other units assigned to the army headquarters have not been observed on imagery. The eastern portion of Lintong AL-1, as delineated in the interim NBRG,¹ does not appear to be part of the headquarters installation and may be research related (Figure 3).

10. [] Lintong Army Barracks AL-3 houses the army-level ponton battalion. The presence of KMM bridging equipment and possible TPP/LPP pontons supports this assessment. No significant activity or change has occurred at this installation since 1976.

11. [] Lintong Army Barracks AL-4 houses the army-level AAA regiment. Construction of additional storage, housing, and administration facilities, which began in 1977 north of the area (delineated in the interim NBRG),¹ appeared to be complete. The equipment for the entire AAA regiment was usually observed in open storage areas until August 1979, when no AAA was seen. The installation provides sufficient covered storage to house the unseen equipment (Figure 4).

12. [] Lintong Army Barracks AL-6 houses the 150th Artillery Regiment. Construction of two new aboveground artillery battalion facilities was first evident in 1978, and these facilities appeared to be complete by [] Figure 5).

13. [] Lintong Army Barracks AL-5, as delineated in the interim NBRG,¹ houses a gun battalion and a multiple rocket launcher (MRL) battalion. However, no rocket launchers have been observed at this installation since December 1975, and no artillery has been seen since October 1976. Rocket launchers are usually seen with the artillery regiments to which they are subordinate. A motor transport unit may be housed at this installation, since trucks are usually observed.

14. [] Chengcheng Army Barracks AL-2 houses a tank regiment. This installation appears to have reached the final stage of construction since publication of the interim NBRG,¹ when only 12 barracks under construction and a large vehicle parking area were discernible. As of the end of this reporting period, the installation consisted of 32 barracks, 24 quarters and other personnel support facilities, vehicle/storage buildings capable of accommodating at least 67 armored vehicles, and a tank subcaliber firing range with a moving target track. Minor construction continued at this installation (Figure 6).

139th Infantry Division

15. [] The 139th Infantry Division is housed in five installations along the southern edge of the Wei He Valley. It consists of an infantry division headquarters unit, a probable AAA battalion, three infantry regiments (two collocated), and an artillery regiment.

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FIGURE 1. 47TH ARMY, LANZHOU MILITARY REGION, CHINA

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FIGURE 2. MAJOR UNITS OF THE 47TH ARMY

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16. [REDACTED] Weinan Army Barracks AL-2 is the most probable location of the 139th Infantry Division Headquarters. The pattern of building replacement in the area annotated A3 in the interim NBRG¹ resembles that of known engineer battalions. River-crossing equipment (probable TPP pontons) has been observed repeatedly at the edge of a reservoir 1.5 nm south of the facility. These pontons may be housed at this installation, although they have never been seen in the barracks area.

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17. [REDACTED] Huaxin Army Barracks East is a newly identified installation constructed in 1978. It probably houses an AAA battalion (Figure 7).

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18. [REDACTED] Weinan Army Barracks AL-3 houses the 419th Artillery Regiment. Improvements made to the regiment since 1977 include the construction of aboveground facilities to house the headquarters unit, the truck-mounted rocket launcher battalion, and two probable howitzer battalions. The new battalion facilities are physically closer to each other than previously and may reflect an attempt to improve control, coordination, and logistical support of the units within this regiment. The observation of twenty 122mm howitzers suggests that the equipment has been upgraded. This upgrading consisted of the replacement of the mortar battalion, previously associated with this regiment, by a howitzer battalion (Figure 8).

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19. [REDACTED] Huayin Army Barracks Southeast houses one confirmed infantry regiment and one probable infantry regiment (415th/417th). Construction of a new aboveground regimental area was initiated in 1978 and was essentially complete by late 1979. This regimental area includes distinct headquarters and battalion areas (including a probable heavy-weapons battalion) and a small-arms firing range. An additional infantry regiment may occupy the previously existing facilities. This probable regiment could share the small-arms firing range in the newly constructed facility (Figure 9).

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20. [REDACTED] Tongguan Barracks Area AL-1 houses the 416th Infantry Regiment. Aboveground facilities for this regiment have been constructed since 1977 (Figure 10).

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140th Infantry Division

21. [REDACTED] The 140th Infantry Division is housed in six installations north of Yanliang and consists of an infantry division headquarters unit, an engineer battalion collocated with an AAA battalion, three infantry regiments, and an artillery regiment. The installations for this division remain in primarily underground facilities.

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22. [REDACTED] The only significant activity observed in this division occurred at Yaoxian Army Barracks South AL-2, which houses the 420th Artillery Regiment. Truck-mounted rocket launchers were identified with this regiment in May 1979, indicating an improvement in force capability.

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23. [REDACTED] No significant activity has been observed in the other units of this division, although

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141st Infantry Division

24. [REDACTED] The 141st Infantry Division is housed in five installations along the northern side of the Wei He Valley. It consists of an infantry division headquarters unit, three infantry regiments, and an artillery regiment.

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25. [REDACTED] Pucheng Army Barracks North is a newly identified aboveground installation which has been constructed since 1977 and houses the infantry division headquarters unit. Facilities at this installation are adequate to house at least three battalions. A probable AAA battalion, a possible engineer battalion, and a possible motor transport battalion have been observed (Figure 11).

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26. [REDACTED] Pucheng Army Barracks AL-3 houses the 421st Artillery Regiment. Aboveground facilities constructed since 1977 are sufficient to house units usually associated with an artillery regiment. A regimental headquarters unit, a probable gun battalion, a possible multiple rocket launcher battalion, an unidentified battalion (possibly mortar), and a support unit have been observed. One gun battalion has apparently remained in underground facilities; however, construction of additional aboveground facilities has continued. Other underground facilities previously considered part of this installation have apparently been razed (Figure 12). Truck-mounted rocket launchers were identified for the first time at this installation in 1979 and indicate an improvement in force capability.

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27. [REDACTED] Pucheng Army Barracks AL-1 is an underground installation which houses the 421st Infantry Regiment. This facility no longer houses the infantry division headquarters and AAA battalion.

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28. [REDACTED] Chengcheng Army Barracks AL-1 is an underground installation and houses the 422nd Infantry Regiment. No significant change in activity has been observed at this installation.

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29. [REDACTED] Heyang Army Barracks is a newly identified, aboveground installation which has been constructed since 1977 and houses the 423rd Infantry Regiment. The installation includes distinct headquarters and battalion areas, as well as a small-arms firing range (Figure 13).

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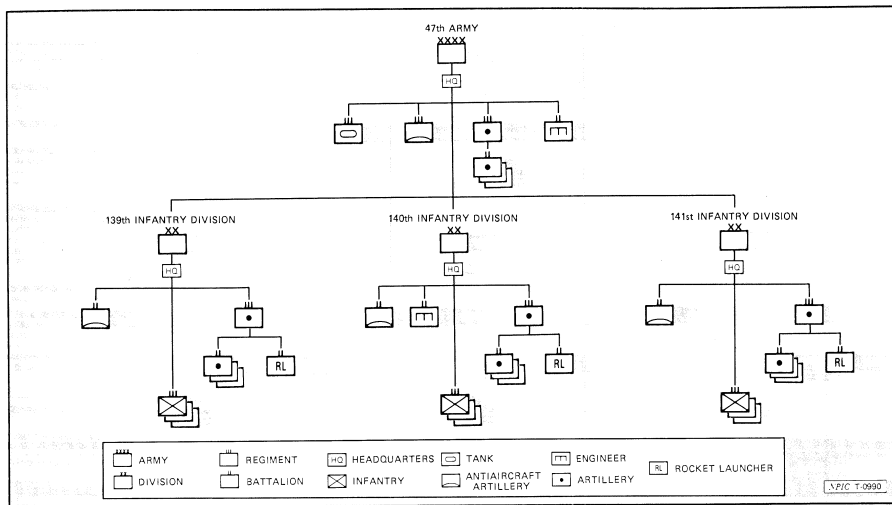


Table 1.
47th Army Units in Lanzhou MR, China
(Derived From All-Source Information)

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Unit	Installation	Coordinates	BE Number	Remarks
Army Level				
Headquarters	Lintong Army Headquarters and Barracks AL-1	34-21-55N 109-12-58E		The eastern portion of the installation as delineated in Figure 1, does not appear to be part of the hq & may be research related
Engineering battalion	Lintong Army Barracks AL-3	34-22-40N 109-16-10E		A KMM bn & occasional TPP pontons observed at this installation
Unit AAA regiment	Lintong Army Barracks AL-4	34-24-30N 109-15-50E		Construction of additional facilities, begun in 77, has been completed; AAA, usually in open storage areas, not evident in Aug 79; may be in covered storage
150th Artillery Regiment	Lintong Army Barracks AL-6	34-24-10N 109-24-14E		Construction of 2 aboveground areas began in 78 & appeared to be complete in early 80
MRL battalion	Lintong Army Barracks AL-5	34-24-56N 109-18-31E		No MRLs seen since 75; no arty seen since 76; installation may house a motor transport unit
Unit tank regiment	Chengcheng Army Barracks AL-2	35-11-59N 109-56-50E		Installation appears to be in final stage of construction, which began in 76

Table 1. (Cont'd)

Unit	Installation	Coordinates	BE Number	Remarks
139th Infantry Division				
Headquarters	Wenan Army Barracks AL-2	34-29-12N 109-31-05E		A prob TPP ponton bn observed in the vicinity of hqs & could be associated with div
AAA battalion	Huaxian Army Barracks East	34-31-30N 109-50-50E		Newly identified; constructed in 78
419th Artillery Regiment	Wenan Army Barracks AL-3	34-22-40N 109-40-40E		Aboveground facilities for 2 prob howitzer bns, 1 MRL bn & hq since 77; 1 mortar bn previously associated with regi may have been replaced by howitzers
415th Infantry Regiment	Huaxian Army Barracks Southeast (Chua-jueh-shen Motor Pool)	34-32-40N 110-05-10E		Probably houses 2 inf regts; construction of 1 aboveground regi installation began in 78 & essentially complete by late 79; previously existing facilities sufficient to house a 2nd inf regi; previously existing facilities reported as Chua-jueh-shen Motor Pool
416th Infantry Regiment	Tongguan Barracks Area AL-1	34-35-30N 110-16-30E		Construction of aboveground facilities for regi began in 77 & appears complete
417th Infantry Regiment	Huaxian Army Barracks Southeast (Chua-jueh-shen Motor Pool)	34-32-40N 110-05-10E		Probably houses 2 inf regts; construction of 1 aboveground regi installation began in 78 & essentially complete by late 79; previously existing facilities sufficient to house a 2nd inf regi; previously existing facilities reported as Chua-jueh-shen Motor Pool
140th Infantry Division				
Headquarters	Danzhan Army Barracks AL-2	35-05-50N 109-01-40E		No significant changes observed
Engineering battalion	Tongguan Army Barracks AL-3	34-59-25N 109-00-45E		No significant changes observed
AAA battalion	Tongguan Army Barracks AL-3	34-59-25N 109-00-45E		No significant changes observed
420th Artillery Regiment	Yaoxian Army Barracks South AL-2	34-49-50N 108-59-58E		Truck-mounted MRLs 1st identified at installation in 79
418th Infantry Regiment	Yanfang Army Barracks AL-1	34-41-31N 109-11-33E		No significant changes observed
419th Infantry Regiment	Tongguan Army Barracks AL-1	35-05-24N 109-04-22E		No significant changes observed
420th Infantry Regiment	Yaoxian Army Barracks North AL-1	34-56-01N 108-57-01E		NSA reports this unit in Yenan area (at 36-36N 109-28E) since Jan 79; no confirmation available from photography
141st Infantry Division				
Headquarters	Pucheng Army Barracks North	34-57-50N 109-47-50E		Newly identified aboveground installation; construction began in 77 & is complete; sufficient facilities present to provide housing & storage for support units usually subordinate to an inf div hq
421st Artillery Regiment	Pucheng Army Barracks AL-3	34-53-59N 109-24-04E		Construction of aboveground facilities for hq unit & 3 bns began in 77 & is now essentially complete; 1 bn continues to occupy underground facilities; facilities in other underground areas have been razed
421st Infantry Regiment	Pucheng Army Barracks AL-1	34-55-53N 109-30-47E		The inf div hq & AAA bn are no longer housed at this installation
422nd Infantry Regiment	Chengcheng Army Barracks AL-1	35-12-18N 109-54-14E		No significant activity observed
423rd Infantry Regiment	Heyang Army Barracks	35-13-20N 110-08-10E		Construction of this newly identified aboveground installation began in 77 & is essentially complete

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IMAGERY ANALYST'S SUMMARY AND COMMENTS

30. [REDACTED] Equipment has been upgraded, and major renovation/reconstruction of facilities of the 47th Army has occurred since 1976. In mid-1976, the addition of a tank regiment and the initial construction of facilities to house this unit represented the first identification of equipment upgrading and improvements to facilities in this army. Additional equipment upgrading has been observed in the division-level artillery regiments. Truck-mounted rocket launchers have been identified in the 140th and 141st Divisions. Previously, only the 139th Division had been observed with this equipment. Now, each division-level artillery regiment apparently is equipped with truck-mounted rocket launchers, although the launchers have not been observed with the army-level artillery regiment. Other upgrading consisted of the replacement of a mortar battalion by howitzers in the 139th Division.

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31. [REDACTED] Since 1976, every known installation of the 139th Infantry Division has been partially or completely renovated. The 141st Infantry Division has experienced similar reconstruction, but two of the infantry regiments have remained essentially unchanged. In several instances, NPIC's assessment of unit locations has been revised based on the construction of new facilities [REDACTED]. In the 140th Infantry Division, no reconstruction has been observed to date. Based on the extensive renovation of facilities in other areas of this army, similar construction in the 140th Division may be expected in the near future.

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REFERENCES**IMAGERY**

(S) All applicable satellite imagery acquired through [REDACTED] was used in the preparation of this report.

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MAPS OR CHARTS

DMA. US Air Target Chart; Series 200; Sheets 0384-10, 0385-1, and 0385-6; scale 1:200,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)

DMA. Topographic Center, Series 1301, Sheet NI 49, 3rd ed, Jan 78, scale 1:1,000,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)

DOCUMENTS

1. CIA/OIA. [REDACTED] OIA/LFD 234/77, *Unit Analysis of 47th Army, Lan-chou Military Region*, 13 Jul 77 (TOP SECRET [REDACTED])

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2. NSA. 3/00/34905-74 (CCM), *Chinese People's Liberation Army: Ground Forces, Part III, Chapter 7, Change 12, Lanchou Military Region* (TOP SECRET [REDACTED])

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RELATED DOCUMENTS

CIA/OSR. Project [REDACTED] *CPLA Unit Assessments*, 28 Feb 80 (TOP SECRET [REDACTED])

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DIA. DDB-1100-209-79, *Tables of Organization and Equipment (TOE), People's Republic of China Army (PRCA) (U)*, Sep 79 (SECRET)

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [REDACTED] Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [REDACTED]

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